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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 PM-04 EB-07 COME-00 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /027 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:JSBLODGETT:LAR
APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
AF/I:JANDEREGG (PHONE)
PM/MC (BFEMMINELLA (PHONE)
EB/TT/MA: RJOHE (INFO)
DOD/ISA: WMOORE (INFO)
USDOC/OIM: PMICHELINE (INFO)
---------- 012943
O P 102321Z FEB 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DOUALA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, BGEN, MILI, CM, GB

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF VESSELS IN PORT GENTIL

REF: A) LIBREVILLE O258 (NOTAL); B) YAOUNDE 0521 (NOTAL)

1. JUST PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF (A), DEPARTMENT RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM U.S. COMPANY NAPCO, CONCERNING SHIPMENT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT HAD BEEN SEIZED AT PORT GENTIL. SHIPMENT CONSISTED OF SIX CADILLAC-GAGE ARMORED CARS (PRE-SUMABLY THOSE REFERRED TO IN REF B) AND TEN M-35 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS, ALL DESTINED FOR CAMEROON ARMED FORCES.

2. EQUIPMENT LEFT NEW YORK ABOARD ERIKA SHULTE AND ARRIVED DOUALA SEVERAL DAYS AGO. COULD NOT BE OFFLOADED
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DUE TO PORT STRIKE (NOT RPT NOT BECAUSE GURC AUTHORITIES

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REFUSED TO PERMIT OFFLOADING) AND WAS DIVERTED TO PORT GENTIL FOR TRANSHIPMENT BACK TO DOUALA ABOARD CARGO SHIP QUOTE DABEMEY UNQUOTE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SECOND UNNAMED BOAT IN REF (A) WAS DABEMEY AND THAT TRANSHIPMENT IN OPEN WATERS WAS IN PROGRESS AT THE TIME OF SEIZURE BY GOG. NAPCO'S INFORMATION IS THAT BOTH VESSELS HAVE BEEN RELEASED BUT THAT EQUIPMENT IS STILL BEING HELD IN PORT GENTIL.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IS REQUESTED TO

APPROACH GOG AUTHORITIES IN MANNER DEEMED MOST APPROPRIATE AND ATTEMPT SECURE RELEASE OF SHIPMENT. YOU MAY ASSURE GOG THAT EQUIPMENT NAMED ABOVE HAS BEEN DULY LICENSED BY USG FOR SALE TO CAMEROONIAN ARMED FORCES. SHIPPING AGENT IN DOUALA IS SOCOPAO, WHICH PRESUMABLY HAS ASSOCIATED COMPANY IN PORT GENTIL.

4. FOR YAOUNDE: EMBASSY REQUESTED TO INFORM GURC, WHICH MAY WISH TO INSTRUCT ITS EMBASSY IN LIBREVILLE TO MAKE PARALLEL APPROACH. REF (A) BEING REPEATED TO YOU.

5. PLEASE ADVISE RESULTS ASAP. KISSINGER

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Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 10 FEB 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, BGEN, MILI, CM, GB, NAPCO
To: LIBREVILLE YAOUNDE
Type: TE
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